(e) Information regarding quantitative production of drugs is monitored by the Director General of Technical Development, Ministry of Industry. Import of some of the anti-cancer drugs and formulations as available with this Ministry during the last 3 years is announced. [See Appendix CXLIX, Annexure No. 121]

Marketing of Nandrolene and Testoterone

2121. SHRI M. KADHARSHA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Nandrolene and Testosterone are allowed for marketing in the country;

(b) what are the diseases for which these drugs are used;

(c) what are the side effects as well as hazardous effects of these drugs;

(d) whether it is a fact that finished medicines are available freely without prescriptions in the market;

(e) whether it is a fact that neither any warning nor any precaution is mentioned on the label;

(f) whether it is also a fact that these drugs are misused; and

(g) if so, the steps taken to safeguard the consumer?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Nandrolone is used in chronic debilitating diseases particularly in old patients, Osteoporosis, convalescence from surgery etc. Testosterone is used in Male hypogonadal disorders endocrine impotence, osteoporosis due to androgen deficiency.

(c) The possible side-effects reported due to the administration of these drugs are Nitrogen retention, increased skeletal weight, sodium and water retention, Oedema, increased vascularity of the skin hyperkalemia and increased growth of the bone.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Precautions warning for a prescription like drug like Nandrolone, Testosterone are given in package insert|promotional literature and not on the lebal.

(f) The Government has not received any report of their misuse.

(g) Does not arise.

Marketing of Caffeine and Tonics

2122. SHRI M. KADHARSHA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Caffeine in Tonics is allowed for marketing;

(b) what is the advantage of Caffeine in Tonics;

(c) what are the considerations on which Caffeine has been allowed to be used;

(d) the names of leading brands of Tonics containing Caffeine; and

(e) what are the indications for which such combinations are used?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Caffeine is stated to have a stimulant effect in tonics.

(d) Santevini and Vitahext.

(e) The claimed function of tonics is to stimiulate appetite and to pro-

duce a feeling of well being in debilated patients.

Marketing of tranquilizers with Vitamins

2123. SHRI M. KADHARSHA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that combination of Tranquilizers with Vitamins are allowed for marketing in the country;

(b) what are the basis on which such combinations have been cleared for marketing and what are the rational for such combinations;

(c) whether any trial on these combinations were done;

(d) if so, what are the side effects and advantage of this combination over single drug formulations;

(e) the names of leading brands being marketed in the country along with names of manufacturers; and

(f) what are the diseases for which such combinations are used?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The formulations containing tranquillizers and vitamins were licensed more than a decade ago by the State Licensing Authorities, at a time when the criteria for licensing formulations was not based on rationality but mostly on safety, efficacy and compliance for fixed dose of combinations.

The clinical trails of combinations of individual approved drugs were not insisted on by the Licensing Authorities in the past. There is no clinical trials as such to prove the advantage of such combinations over single drugs.

(e) The names of leading brands of combinations containing tranquillizers with vitamins as reported are—Placidox (M/s Lupin); Diazavit (M/s. Gratus Pharma); Diapam Forte (M/s Medwel); Pentapam Forte (M/s. Medwel) Placipam (M/s Adam Pharma) and Fluril (M/s. Medicare).

(f) These formulations are claimed to be useful for the treatment of anxiety, tension and certain other psychosomatic disorders.

Overcharging of Rifampicin

2124. SHRI M. KADHARSHA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that certain State Drug Authorities received complaints about overcharging the prices of formulations both based on single ingredient as well as in combination of other drugs of Rifampicin;

(b) whether it is also a fact that certain State Drug Authorities made a survey about the prices;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) what is the price of each formulation based on this drug being charged in Kerala and Delhi by chemists;

(e) whether these prices are higher than the notified prices;

(f) if so, what action was taken against the chemists over-charging the prices under Essential Commodity Act; and

(g) what are the names of Chemists where prices were checked?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) to (g) The information is being collected from the Ministry of Industry (Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals) and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.